

W E L L I N G T O N
U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L
(SOMERSET)

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- of the -

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the year 1968



BY

DR. HUGH MORRISON

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.



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WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (SOMERSET)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1968

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF, 1968

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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PUBLIC HEALTH & HOUSING OFFICER

A. J. HILL, Cert. S.I.B., F.A.P.H.I. (Retired - July 1968)

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL

G. MURRAY PRICE, ESQ., J.P.

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To:

THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Report for 1968. The Report is drawn up in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health and contains the usual information on the health and sanitary circumstances of the district. The Report, in the main, follows the lines of those of previous years, but certain fresh facts have been incorporated in the various sections. The first of the two sections refers to the province of the Medical Officer of Health and the second is contributed by the Public Health Inspector.

Mr. A.J. Hill retired during the course of the year after a long period of able and devoted service to the Council and to the Town of Wellington. He was succeeded as Public Health Inspector by Mr. R. Evans and I should like to wish him a long and successful tenure of this important post.

I wish to thank the Members of the Council, the Clerk and officials of other departments for their willing assistance and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

HUGH MORRISON.

WELLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT

Area (in acres)	2,186
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year 1968...	8,180
Census Population 1961...	7,670
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Book on 1st April, 1968	2,897
Rateable Value, 1st April 1968	£269,456
Sum represented by a 1d Rate, 1st April, 1968	£1,136

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1968

1. Births.

(a) Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total		
Legitimate	69	52	121	Crude birth rate	
Illegitimate	3	4	7	per 1,000 of the	
				estimated resident	
Totals:	72	56	128	population	15.6

Standardised Birth Rate, Wellington U.D.....	17.78
Birth Rate, England and Wales	16.9
Percentage Illegitimate of Total Live Births	5.4

(b) Stillbirths.

	Total	2
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births -		
Wellington U.D.....		15.3
England and Wales		14.0
Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population -		
Wellington U.D.....		.24

2. Deaths.

(a) Total deaths	121
Crude Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	14.8
Standardised death rate, Wellington U.D.....	10.36
Death Rate for England and Wales	11.9

(b) Maternal Mortality

Total maternal mortality from all causes	0
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(c) Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age - Total	1
Deaths among legitimate infants	1
Deaths among illegitimate infants	0
Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births -	
Wellington U.D.....	7.69
England and Wales	14.0

(d) Deaths from Cancer (all ages) -

Total	17
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CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1968

Cause of Death	M	F	Total
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	-	1
Tuberculosis, other... ..	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough..	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis... ..	-	-	-
Measles....	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases... ..	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	4	-	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast..	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus..	-	-	-
Other malignant Neoplasms, etc.... ..	2	6	8
Benign and unspecified Neoplasms..	-	1	1
Leukemia, aleukemia... ..	-	-	-
Diabetes Mellitus	1	1	2
Anaemias	1	1	2
Other diseases of nervous system, etc... ..	-	1	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease... ..	1	1	2
Hypertensive disease..	4	6	10
Ischaemic heart disease	18	9	27
Other forms of heart disease	3	6	9
Cerebrovascular disease	7	6	13
Other diseases of circulatory system	1	5	6
Influenza	2	1	3
Pneumonia	6	8	14
Bronchitis and Emphysema	3	2	5
Asthma	1	-	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
Gatritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Cirrhosis of liver	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system... ..	-	1	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion... ..	-	-	-
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases..	-	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
All other accidents... ..	-	-	-
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	2	-	2
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
All causes - Total:			62 59 121

There have been some changes in the form of the Table of Causes of Death as set out by the Registrar General. Some new causes have been inserted such as asthma and cirrhosis of the liver, but the changes mainly affect the section covering various diseases affecting the heart and blood vessels. These always account for a large number of deaths in any community and the figures for Wellington are no exception. Since the terms used are technical and perhaps not always easily understood by the lay person it may be useful to provide some explanations, though it should be understood that this is very much a simplification of a very complicated subject.

Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease: this is damage inflicted on the heart by one or more attacks of acute rheumatism, usually occurring in childhood or early adult life. The structures often affected are the heart valves which may be deformed and rendered incapable of carrying out their function. This throws a constant strain on the heart in the effort demanded from it to compensate for the valve deficiency. Ultimately the heart is liable to become enlarged and to fail.

Hypertensive Disease: is the condition associated with high blood pressure. Again a long-standing strain is put upon the heart in overcoming increased resistance to its action.

Ischaemic Heart Disease: nearly always means coronary thrombosis, in which one of the arteries supplying the heart muscle becomes blocked by a clot of blood, and as a result the portion of the heart depending on the affected artery is deprived of its blood supply. There are various degrees of severity with this condition and many cases make a good recovery, but when a massive blockage takes place the heart becomes incapable of performing its function and death ensues.

Other Forms of Heart Disease: a number of widely varying conditions come under this heading, such as inflammation of the membranes within or around the heart, disorders of heart rhythm and so on.

Cerebrovascular Disease: usually means the condition referred to in common terms as a Stroke.

Other Diseases of the Circulatory System include such things as arteriosclerosis, commonly called hardening of the arteries, aneurysm or dilatation of an artery, and embolism or blockage of an artery, usually by a clot of blood.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1968

There was one death in infants up to the age of one year which gave a rate per 1,000 births of 7.8. The cause of death was congenital defect.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Domiciliary Services

1. Medical and Nursing

There are six general medical practitioners living and carrying on practice in the Urban District. There are adequate arrangements when required for domiciliary consultation with consultants serving the Taunton and West Somerset Area and, speaking generally, the practice of medicine in the district is of a high standard. The provisions for domiciliary nursing are also satisfactory. It is hoped that in the not too distant future a Health Centre will become available for doctors practising in Wellington.

2. Home Help Service

This service, administered by the County Council, is well established in the district, and invaluable assistance is given in many cases of illness and the domestic difficulties arising therefrom. There is no doubt that this is one of the most useful of all public services. I am indebted to the County Organiser for the following analysis of cases where help was arranged in Wellington Urban District during 1968:-

Care of Children	2
Old age and infirmity	60
Chronic sick.....	4
Post operative	4
Maternity	1
Post and pre-natal.....	2
Accidents.....	2
	75

Hospital Services

The Hospital Services of the district are administered by the West Somerset Hospital Management Committee under the general direction of the S.W. Regional Hospital Board. A detailed re-appraisal of these services is going on at the present time following on the production by the Government of a comprehensive Hospital Plan for the nation. Some of the provisions for the needs of various types of patients are detailed below:-

1. General Medical and Surgical

Wellington Cottage Hospital provides valuable facilities for local cases which do not require to be sent to large institutions, and complete consultant cover is available for the work carried out there.

The main provision for hospital services for the area is made by the large general hospital at Musgrove Park in Taunton, which has a branch housing certain departments at East Reach. All medical conditions, apart from certain cases requiring treatment at specialised regional centres, are dealt with at this hospital.

A new Accident Centre was opened during 1968 in association with the East Reach Branch Hospital already mentioned.

The ultimate plan for hospital services in the area is that a large new District Hospital should be erected on the outskirts of Taunton. Planning of this project is well advanced but commencement of the work has been delayed because of the national economic situation.

2. Chronic Sick

Since the appointment of a Geriatrician to the West Somerset Clinical Area, arrangements for hospital treatment of the chronic sick have been put on a more satisfactory basis. Most of these cases are admitted to Trinity Hospital in Taunton. There continues to be a very great pressure on accommodation of this type, and this is a branch of medical care which will undoubtedly make increasing demands on medical and ancillary services as the years go on. There is also severe pressure on Part III accommodation for elderly people not requiring actual nursing, especially on the female side.

3. Infectious Diseases

Cases of infectious diseases from Wellington Urban District are sent to the Isolation Hospital situated in the Borough of Taunton. The bulk of the Isolation Hospital work is done in cubicle blocks. The pattern of infectious diseases requiring admission to hospital is changing. Many of the patients admitted suffer from vague pyrexial illnesses in which the diagnosis is in doubt. Scarlet Fever which used to provide a large proportion of the admissions is, at the present time, a relatively mild disease, and most of the cases are nursed at home. Measles and Whooping Cough still demand hospital treatment in the occasional case where there are severe complications or where home nursing is impracticable. Diphtheria has not been seen in the district for many years. Poliomyelitis is being brought under control by inoculation, and in the past few years there has not been a severe epidemic in this part of the country. Many cases are, however, admitted to hospital on suspicion of suffering from poliomyelitis, and these often provide difficult diagnostic problems. The extensive use of antibiotics has resulted in the appearance of severe infections due to certain bacteria which were formerly regarded as fairly harmless, and this leads to the admission of cases of this kind to the Isolation Hospital.

4. Tuberculosis

Cases of Pulmonary and Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the Regional Hospital Board for treatment, which is supervised by the Chest Physician for the area. The Sanatoria are at Wincanton and Taunton for Pulmonary cases. Cases requiring orthopaedic treatment are becoming very uncommon, but when they do occur, arrangements for treatment are made according to individual need.

5. Mentally Sick

The modern trend is to treat cases of mental illness whenever possible in their own homes so that they may remain as members of the general community.

A Day Mental Hospital in Taunton performs a very useful function in this connection in enabling many patients to carry on at home who would otherwise require to have residential hospital care. When this type of care does prove necessary cases are admitted to Tone Vale Mental Hospital. The psychiatric specialists conduct out-patient clinics for the area, and it is felt that now, more than ever before, mental patients have a better outlook and reaping the benefit of more successful methods of treatment at an earlier and more hopeful stage of their disease.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

1. Tuberculosis

Clinics for patients suffering from this disease, and for the supervision of suspects and contacts are held by the Chest Physicians at Musgrove Park Hospital. There is an After-Care Committee working in co-operation with these clinics. Mass Radiography has been carried out from time to time on various groups of the county population by a team working from a centre in Bristol, and Wellington is one of the districts which has had the benefit of this service.

2. Venereal Disease

A combined clinic and treatment centre is carried on at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital which caters for male and female patients of this and surrounding districts.

Early cases of syphilis are usually sent to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, for a fortnight's intensive penicillin treatment as in-patients. Afterwards they continue to have observation and treatment at the Taunton Clinic.

These conditions which had, for some years, become rather uncommon in the district have been latterly showing a marked increase in prevalence; and this is in accordance with the country as a whole.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare

The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the Health Visitors and Midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in the Urban District of Wellington. Obstetric Consultants in Taunton are available for consultation with medical practitioners in the district. Abnormal and complicated cases are admitted for hospital treatment when necessary. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the medical staff of the County Council.

A valuable service is provided for premature infants. Small or premature babies unsuitable for nursing at home are admitted to a Special Care Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital, an ambulance equipped with an Oxyginaire incubator being sent to collect them from their homes. If the baby is deemed fit to be nursed at home, the district midwife can obtain advice and special equipment to help her with the management of the case.

A weekly clinic is held in the premises at Messrs. Fox Bros. at which the Health Visitors are in attendance.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a Laboratory in Taunton at which all the usual specimens connected with Public Health work, such as throat and nose swabs, blood, faeces and sputum are examined. The Staff of the Laboratory also give very useful assistance in the investigation of epidemic outbreaks. Chemical analyses are carried out as requested at the Laboratory of the County Analyst at Taunton.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Ambulance transport for all cases is the responsibility of the Somerset County Council. The main Ambulance Station and Control for the south-west of the County is situated at the entrance to Musgrove Park Hospital. The Ambulance Station serves a very wide area and at the 31st December the establishment of vehicles and staff was as follows:-

Vehicles - 8 Ambulances
6 Sitting-case Ambulances
1 Car

Staff - 5 Sub-officers
25 Driver-attendants

All vehicles at this station are fitted with two-way radio.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - SECTION 47

No statutory action has been taken under this Act but some cases were dealt with informally.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

Regular sessions are held by the Regional Hospital Board Unit on one afternoon of each fortnight at the Longforth Road Car Park. Residents who wish to have a chest X-ray are welcomed at any one of these sessions and it is strongly urged that this facility should be freely used, especially by those over the age of 40 who would do well to have an annual chest X-ray.

As an example of the type of work done in a unit of this sort the following table shows the findings obtained from routine examinations at the Wellington centre during 1968.

	Male	Female	Total
Number examined	151	156	307
Abnormalities detected	11	4	15
Details of abnormalities detected -			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Active	1	-	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	2	1	3
High Eventration of L. Diaphragm	1	-	1
Pleural Effusion	1	-	1
Resolving Pneumonitis	1	-	1
Sarcoidosis	-	1	1
Elevated Diaphragm	-	1	1
Hypertensive Heart	1	-	1
Hilar Adenitis	1	-	1
Inflammatory	2	1	3
Pleural Thickening	1	-	1

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

1968 was a very quiet year for notifications of infectious diseases. Those received were as follows:-

Measles 2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..... 1
Infective Jaundice..... 2

The only point worthy of note is that Infective Jaundice is a virus condition which only became notifiable during the course of the year under review.

IMMUNISATION

Immunisation has been of striking benefit in lowering the incidence of various infectious diseases and in preventing deaths from these conditions. This work is going on steadily in Wellington as in other areas of the County, but at present the mechanics of recording each child's immunisation and of preparing notices for parents as each procedure falls due for the individual child is being transferred to the County Council Computer.

Children are grouped according to the particular medical practitioner on whose list they are, and the various medical practices are being brought into the scheme over a period of time. During the transition, figures are no longer available for estimating the percentage of children at various ages who have been immunised against the different diseases in individual districts of the County, which is information that it is valuable to have; but when the reorganisation has been completed it will again become possible to estimate the proportion of children immunised, and this should show an increase.

The following table sets out the schedule of immunisation considered desirable for children at the present time, and it is followed by some brief notes referring to each of the diseases concerned:-

AGE	IMMUNISATION PROCEDURE
1 - 6 months	1. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus (combined injection) Poliomyelitis (vaccine by mouth) 4 - 6 weeks interval 2. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus (combined injection) 4 - 6 weeks interval 3. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus (combined injection) Poliomyelitis vaccine (by mouth)
During 2nd year of life	4. Smallpox Vaccination
18 - 21 months	5. Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus (combined injection) Poliomyelitis vaccine (by mouth)
At school entry	6. Diphtheria, Tetanus (combined injection) Poliomyelitis vaccine (by mouth)
8 - 12 years	7. Diphtheria and Tetanus (re-inforcing combined injection)
12 years	8. B.C.G. Vaccination against T.B.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Immunisation against diphtheria was the first mass campaign of protection against an infectious disease carried out in this country, apart from vaccination against smallpox which has never been applied to such a wide extent. The result is that, whereas there used to be thousands of deaths from diphtheria each year in England and Wales, the mortality is now almost down to vanishing point. It is necessary for the percentage of protected children in the community to be kept high in order to avoid the recurrence of outbreaks.

Whooping Cough Immunisation

This is now probably the most generally disabling of the common infectious diseases affecting young children. There are risks to life, especially in infants, and lung complications can be severe and prolonged. Immunisation is preventive in a good proportion of cases and in the remainder modifies the disease to produce a mild attack.

Tetanus Immunisation

This is an uncommon infection in this country but important because of its very severe character and the high rate of mortality in those affected. It is much commoner in some of the less developed parts of the world, and even in Europe at least 26,000 have died from this cause in the past ten years. Immunisation gives the practical certainty of complete protection.

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

It is hardly necessary to stress the misery which can result from this disease in view of the widespread epidemics which have occurred in this country within recent memory. Many of the sufferers die, and others are left with a lifetime of disablement. Immunisation is now simple with the use of vaccine given by mouth and has been largely responsible for the virtual elimination of poliomyelitis as a serious epidemic risk in this country at the present time. Here again it is essential that a high proportion of children continue to be immunised in order to avoid the danger of further outbreaks.

Smallpox Vaccination

Smallpox is one of the most deadly of all infectious diseases. Its incidence in this country has been confined in latter years to scattered outbreaks, but the dangers of large-scale epidemics are increasing owing to the ease and rapidity of air transport from countries where the disease is still endemic. Vaccination gives excellent protection, and is best done initially in the second year of life.

Tuberculosis - B.C.G. Immunisation

One of the most dramatic improvements in the state of the national health has been the enormous fall over the period since the last war, in the prevalence of tuberculosis and in the number of deaths which it causes. There are many factors responsible for this gratifying development, and one of them undoubtedly is the beneficial effect of the widespread campaign of immunisation with B.C.G. which has been carried out. The required injection is given at about the age of twelve after preliminary skin testing to determine which children are susceptible to an attack of the disease.

150 children attending school in the Urban District were given the Heaf Test and 119 were given B.C.G. Vaccination.

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SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is now provided by the West Somerset Water Board and the Council has one representative on the Board.

The supply is at present from Clatworthy Reservoir supplemented by water from Westford and Payton Springs. All the water is chlorinated before going into the mains but is not treated with fluoride. The Borehole at Pitt Farm is no longer in use due to the excessive iron content in the water, the pumps and other machinery are being overhauled so that the supply could be used in an emergency.

The County Public Analyst reports on the chemical analysis of three samples taken from the present sources of supply are that they were of satisfactory chemical purity.

In general the supply has been satisfactory as regards quantity and quality and there has been no shortage over the last twelve months.

The supply from Clatworthy is soft and from Payton and Westford hard (temporary).

WATER SAMPLES TAKEN

Chemical - 3
Bacteriological - 19

Of the bacteriological samples, five were found to be unsatisfactory, four from private supplies and one from the public supply from a tap fitted with an anti-splash/filter device.

The remaining properties not provided with a mains supply are few in number and in outlying isolated areas of the district.

There are 3,024 dwellinghouses supplied direct from the public mains serving a population of approximately 8,100.

Some industrial premises have their own private supplies which are used in their businesses and one large food producer has installed a chlorination plant.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND DRAINAGE

Disposal is at present carried out at Tone, Mitchells Pool and Farthings Pitts. Tone Sewage Works is continuous flow settlement followed by aeration and sludge drying beds, the final effluent discharges into the River Tone and its compliance with statutory requirements is not always satisfactory. Samples of effluent taken for chemical analysis for residual pesticides are giving reasonably satisfactory results.

Mitchells Pool Works which serves properties in the South of the town is now too small to deal with the flow received but with constant and competent maintenance the final effluent has given less trouble than expected. Work is in progress on a pumping station with a rising main direct to the Tone Works and when in commission the Mitchells Pool Works will be closed. The small disposal plant at Farthings Pitts gives no trouble and is still working efficiently.

In general, sewage disposal has been reasonably satisfactory considering the two main installations are now overloaded and if the plans for providing a new Works at Tone at a cost of £550,000 are not put into operation at an early date problems could arise both from the River Board and future developments in the town.

The old areas of the town are served by a combined sewer system which is rapidly deteriorating and it is proposed to provide new trunk sewers at a cost of £300,000 in the near future.

In an attempt to reduce the load on the Tone Works, new development is now providing for separate systems of drainage. This will also reduce the increase in flow in the existing sewers.

Despite the general condition of the trunk sewers there has been little evidence of rodent activity.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

(i) Collection is carried out by direct labour and a weekly collection has been maintained throughout the year for domestic properties. Refuse from business premises is collected during the normal weekly collection, the first two bins are free of charge, and a special collection is made at the end of each week at a charge of 1/- per bin for the first three bins and 9d for each additional bin.

A pilot scheme of paper sacks is being tried out on the new Priory Estate of 200 Council houses, it is expected to be in full operation by June 1969 and if successful could be extended to other parts of the town.

The method of kerbside collection in the town can be considered unsatisfactory from the health, hygiene and aesthetic aspects as in many cases the refuse has to be brought through dwellings and food premises and in some cases refuse is left for long periods of time on the public footpaths. Refuse left in this manner is at the mercy of marauding dogs and strong winds, it is also very unsightly and must give a bad impression to visitors in the town and others just passing through, not to mention the possible dangers to blind persons.

There are problems which will have to be overcome such as rear access and service roads if kerbside collection is to go. It must also be remembered that costs will rise for any improvements in the service given.

(ii) Disposal -- All refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping and all refuse is covered at the end of each working day.

Due to the confined tipping area and general conditions it was found necessary to purchase a new Massey-Ferguson Crawler-Loader to replace the existing Digger-Loader.

Tipping space is now limited and the present site is only expected to last for another two years. Many enquiries and consultations have been made during the year to find new tipping sites or alternative methods of disposal but without success. The problem of refuse disposal is country-wide and the general trend is for disposal costs to rise fairly rapidly due to heavy capital expenditure and longer hauls to tipping areas.

With the innovation of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, the removal of abandoned vehicles and bulk refuse has been an additional problem to be dealt with. The removal of so-called abandoned cars is fraught with complications and potential legal actions if the legal procedures laid down in the Act are not carried out to the letter.

Activities in this aspect of refuse collection and disposal will increase with the prosperity of the community and if owners with cars to dispose of and persons with bulky unwanted articles would only take the trouble to enquire, the cost of this service could be kept within reasonable boundaries.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No premises were found to be infected during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no offensive trades in the district within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered common lodging houses within the Urban District.

SCHOOLS

Though all the schools in the area are on the public water supply and sewerage system there is still room for improvement in the sanitary accommodation when finance is available. In some cases young children have to cross playgrounds in all weathers to get to the toilets and in doing so get wet and cold and may have to sit in their wet clothes for considerable periods of time.

Prefabricated extensions are being erected to deal with the increase in pupils but this can be considered only as a temporary remedy.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

In the district there are two sites, one of which does not require a licence. They are both situated on land adjoining the A38, one on the Taunton side and the other on the Exeter side of the town.

The licensed site is for 50 residential and 10 touring caravans and is occupied by itinerants who stay for a few months and residents who live permanently on the site.

In the last twelve months, three families have been rehoused from this site but the problems still remain due to the ingress of new families.

The unlicensed site is used by the Caravan Club for the summer months only.

SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHS

There is one privately owned open-air swimming pool in the district which is used by club members and some school-children. Its use by school-children has been much reduced due to the provision of swimming pools at Council schools in Wellington.

The capacity is 65,625 gallons and the rate of circulation is below the standard recommended by the Ministry of Health. Thirty-eight samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination and residual chlorine tests. Thirty-three were found satisfactory and five unsatisfactory.

Chlorination is carried out manually and each day the attendant checks for residual chlorine. Though this method is antiquated, the daily check and results of samples taken give reasonable results and the circulation pumps with filters keep the water fairly clear.

School swimming pools are kept under observation by the Education Department and the County Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

NATURE AND NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS DURING THE YEAR:-

Dwellingshouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	411
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120

NUMBER OF NOTICES SERVED DURING THE YEAR:-

Informal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6

RESULTS OF NOTICES SERVED:-

Total Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67
Notices standing over at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Certain powers relating to health, comfort and sanitary provisions are delegated by the County Council to this Authority.

Most of the general welfare and health requirements are now covered by the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 or the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, leaving early closing, general closing and conditions of employment, including meal-times, hours of employment and Sunday trading etc. to be dealt with under the Shops Act.

37 inspections were made in conjunction with visits for other purposes and spot checks carried out in connection with closing hours.

I feel that in general, conditions have so improved regarding employment and general agreements on closing hours that most employers comply with the requirements of the Act without coercion.

The employment of young persons, (under the age of 16 years and between the ages of 16 and 18 years) for more than 44 hours and 48 hours per week respectively, except under certain conditions, is difficult to enforce if no complaint is made and as none has been received one must assume this part of the Act is working to the satisfaction of all.

In general the Act has been well observed and no difficulties have arisen.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

There were four new registrations in the last twelve months and the Act no longer applies to eleven premises previously registered due to closures or occupation of family business with no employees. Three registered premises were transferred to Her Majesty's Factory Inspectorate, making a total of 109 Registered Premises for 1968.

OPERATION OF THE ACT AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

Continued advice is obviously necessary as it is known that many premises have new occupiers but Form O.S.R.1 has not been sent in to the Local Authority as required under Section 49 of the Act. Other premises have closed or changed occupation but only one has informed the Local Authority of the change. The occupiers of two premises were sent letters and the forms were completed and returned, more reminders will be sent in 1969.

It should be noted that persons failing to comply with their obligations under Section 49 of the Act can be liable to a fine of up to £20.

ACCIDENTS

Three accidents have been reported in 1968:-

- (a) Strained back - caused by lifting a heavy weight.
- (b) Lacerated leg - caused by striking against an object.
- (c) Strained knee - caused by a fall.

As there were no notifications in 1967, it could be assumed that there is a tendency for more frequent accidents but I hope it is due to employers becoming increasingly aware of their responsibilities and reporting accidents which would not have previously been notified.

GENERAL APPLICATION OF THE ACT

The practice of relying on advice and guidance has been continued in preference to legal proceedings and this has been found to be the best method of obtaining the required standards to date but prosecutions may become necessary when only the hard core of offenders remain.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

URBAN DISTRICT OF WELLINGTON 1968

Prescribed particulars on the administration of Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health:-

Premises	Number on Register	N U M B E R O F		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	--	--	--
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	43	19	5	--
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers premises)	3	5	--	--
TOTAL	47	24	5	...

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Cleanliness Sect. 1	6	5	—	—	—
Overcrowding Sect. 2	—	—	—	—	—
Temperature Sect. 3	—	—	—	—	—
Ventilation Sect. 4	—	—	—	—	—
Drainage of Floors. Sect. 6	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences Sect. 7					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	2	—	2	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	11	7	—	2	—

BAKEHOUSES

There are two bakehouses in the district and four inspections were made. They are kept in a satisfactory condition and minor defects have been dealt with by informal action.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956/68

Relatively little action has been taken in this aspect of Public Health work but three complaints of smoke from chimneys were investigated and observations made. Only in one case was a contravention observed and this on further investigation was found to be due to a faulty oil burner which was in the process of being replaced.

Though this town is considered not to suffer unduly from air pollution, it should not be forgotten that prevention is better than cure. Control over future development, heights of chimneys, grit arresters, instrumentation etc. and building byelaws regarding smokeless fuel authorised appliances should be enforced to minimise problems in the future.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

Injury and nuisance from noise is now receiving more publicity as evidence becomes available regarding its effect and over the country more complaints are being received and dealt with.

During the year three persons complained of noise and these were investigated. In one case it was vibration from a boiler which was remedied and the other was a motor-driven saw which was in use at the rear of residential property and the owner was requested to use it only at reasonable hours of the day and not at all during week-ends if possible.

In response to Circular 59/68, a resolution was passed by the Council to include in all future contracts a clause relating to noise prevention in connection with plant and equipment used. This will include compressors and pneumatic drills.

MEAT INSPECTION

In 1963, regulations came into force requiring that all home-killed meat must be inspected before it leaves the slaughterhouse and charges could be made for this service. 100% inspection is now carried out and the maximum charges are made.

It has not been found necessary to regulate the hours of slaughter due to the small quantities being dealt with.

The use of cloths for wiping down carcasses and offal is now prohibited and paper towels are being used for this purpose.

There are still two slaughterhouses in regular use and details of inspections are as follows:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	196	-	2	1210	3
Number Inspected	196	-	2	1210	3
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	2	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	7	-	-	11	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci.	3.57	-	-	1.0	33.3
<u>Tuberculosis only:-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis:-</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-
Generally and totally condemned.	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Weight of Meat Condemned (in lbs) for:-</u>					
(a) Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Cysticercosis	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Other	119	-	-	105	8
Total (in lbs) condemned:-	119	-	-	105	8

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

No outbreaks of food poisoning have occurred in the district during the year under review.

FOOD PREMISES

Inspections are made of food premises and advice given on methods of improving conditions. It is pleasing to record that the majority of traders are willing to co-operate.

44 inspections have been made of the food premises registered under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, which are, on the whole, kept in a satisfactory state. The food traders are co-operative in having suggested improvements carried out, and no exceptional difficulties have been encountered. There remains improvement to be made in personal hygiene in the handling and wrapping of food.

There are 10 premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of preserved foods, 49 for the sale of ice-cream and 1 to manufacture and sell ice-cream under the Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

With the exception of the small retail manufacturer of ice-cream whose sale from the shop is small, other ice-cream sold from registered premises in the district is pre-packed and sold as received from the large manufacturers.

FOOD HYGIENE

Inspections have been carried out during the year and in general the standards in food hygiene have improved but a small number of shops continue to need constant visits to keep them in reasonably clean condition and it may become necessary to take legal action to bring home their dilatory manner.

During the year a Circular was received regarding dogs in food shops and though no regulations were to be made it was suggested that all food premises should be requested to display notices requesting that dogs should not be taken into them. Most food shops were notified and notices provided.

Certificates for condemnation of the following foods were given during the year at the request of shopkeepers:--

- 6 lb. sausage meat
- 12 lb. cooked meat and meat products
- 65 lb. canned meat
- 189 lb. canned fruit and vegetables
- 5 lb. frozen foods and ice-cream

FOOD COMPLAINTS

Four complaints were received and dealt with:--

- 2 complaints of mould
- 1 complaint of Blow Fly eggs
- 1 complaint of sour sausage meat

Number of food premises in the area	...	...	...	...	...	72
Number registered	...	...	...	...	...	...
for the sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	50
for the preparation of other food	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16	...	...	...	...	...	70
(Wash-basins, hot and cold water etc.)						
Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies	...	...	...	...	...	42
(Sinks, hot and cold water etc.)						
Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19	...	...	...	...	...	42

POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES

There are no poultry processing premises within the urban district.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER

No cows were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

HOUSING

Council Houses

During the year 86 houses were completed and occupied on the new Priory Estate and it is hoped that all 200 dwellings in the scheme will be completed and occupied by late May, early June 1969.

The modernisation of existing dwellings has continued throughout the year and now most pre-war houses have been improved.

The erection of more aged persons bungalows is being considered as part of the future capital expenditure.

TABLE OF COUNCIL-OWNED DWELLINGS

DATE ERECTED	ADDRESS	NOS.	HOUSES	FLATS	BUNGS.	TOTAL
1923	Church Fields	1-42	42	-	-	42
"	Victoria Street	14-21	8	-	-	8
"	Longforth Road	1-28				
		32-37	34	-	-	34
1926	Olands Road	1-22	22	-	-	22
1927	Alexandra Road	1-32	32	-	-	32
1928	Lower Foxmoor Road	21-36	16	-	-	16
"	Popes Lane	1-16	16	-	-	16
1930	Crosslands	26-39	14	-	-	14
1936	Brendon Road	1-52	52	-	-	52
1938	Greenway Road	1-39				
		2-32	28	8	-	36
"	Quantock Road	1-42				
		23a				
		24a				
		25a				
		26a	34	12	-	46
1946	Church Green	1-8	-	8	-	8
1947	Blackdown Road	1-36	24	12	-	36
1948/51	Howard Road	1-99				
		2-52				
		18a	56	21	-	77
1949/50	Parklands Road	2-56				
		1-11				
		11a				
		15-59	54	4	-	58
1949/55	Tone Hill	27-46				
		65-74	22	8	-	30
1951/55	Oaken Ground	1-102	66	36	-	102
1953	Alexandra Flats	1-4	-	4	-	4
1953	Court Drive	5-12	-	8	-	8

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DATE ERECTED	ADDRESS	NOS.	HOUSES	FLATS	BUNG.	TOTAL
1953/55	Stoneleigh	1-28 12a 12b 16a 16b	16	16	-	32
1954	Holyoake Street	3-53	8	-	-	8
"	Seymour Street	30-32	2	-	-	2
1956 (Purchased)	Wellesley Park	35a 35b 35c	-	3	-	3
1956/57	Priory	1-106	42	64	-	106
1959	Buckwell	31-34	-	4	-	4
"	Champford Lane	2-8	4	-	-	4
(Purchased)						
+ 1959	Holyoake Street OPD	34-62	-	4	11	15
1960/63	Bulford	8-12 12a 14-19 54-61 64-99	2	44	10	56
* 1963	Bulford OPD	20-53	1	32	-	33
"	Stedhams Close	1-16	-	16	-	16
1964	Oaken Ground, (Northside)	6-21	-	16	-	16
1966	Bulford (Treloyhan)	62	1	-	-	1
(Purchased)						
1967	Canal Close	1-8	-	8	-	8
1967 (Gift)	Mantle Street	31	1	-	-	1
1968	Lillebonne Close	1-51	35	16	-	51
"	Gay Street	1-30	18	12	-	30
"	Humphreys Road	35-39	5	-	-	5
TOTALS			655	356	21	1032

+ 1 Visitor's Room.

* 2 Visitors Rooms.

Private Housing

The construction of private houses during the year was slightly more than those completed by the Council and if the present tightening of finance does not make purchase too difficult still more should be built in the next twelve months.

Planning permission has been given for one development of 150 houses and there are approximately 50 in the course of erection, there are also other individual housing plots with planning approval.

Any further development after completion of those with present planning permission may be held up due to sewage works capacity.

Houses Gained or Lost

Three houses were lost during the year, two due to change of use and one due to demolition to make way for new development.

One hundred and seventy-six were gained due to new development, eighty-six by the Council and ninety by private builders.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the twelve months period January to December there has been a steady flow of applications for improvement grants with the tendency for an increase in discretionary and a reduction in standard grant applications.

The following Table gives facts and figures for the year:-

	Discretionary Grants	Standard Grants	Total
Applications Received	8	19	27
Applications Approved	8	19	27
Grants Paid	7	16	23
Council's Contribution	£1,902-10-7½	£1,984-0-10	£3,886-11-5½

Statistics from the Ministry of Housing have shown a country-wide reduction of applications for standard grants and mobile exhibitions have been touring in all areas in an attempt to stimulate interest. Though Wellington was one of the towns visited by one of the exhibitions its success was marred due to an accident with the vehicle on its way to the town and insufficient publicity but another visit was arranged for early in 1969.

There have been indications that changes will be made in the present legislation to make grants more attractive and also to include grants for improvement of the amenities of areas as well as the amenities inside houses.

I feel that Wellington has many places where the general amenities can be improved, i.e. provision of service roads and rear access etc. and consideration should be given to this aspect of improvements at an early date so that investigations and preparations can be made to implement this part of any new legislation which will be put before Parliament in 1969. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have set up Regional Offices, one of which is at Bristol to give advice to local authorities and their staff who specialise in this field are prepared to visit local authorities to advise if requested.

The following Table is required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government:-

1. The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation 7
2. The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 86
3. The number of representations made to the local authority with a view to (a) serving of notices requiring the execution of works; or(a) 1
(b) the making of Demolition or Closing Orders(b) 1

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4.	The number of informal notices served requiring the execution of works	27
5.	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	0
6.	The number of Demolition or Closing Orders made	1
7.	The number of houses in respect of which an Undertaking was accepted under sub-Section (4) of Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	0
8.	The number of houses demolished	1

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Act makes every local authority responsible for treatment to keep their district free from rats or mice and the Council employ one part-time operator for this purpose.

The sewers are systematically treated twice a year, 10% of the inspection chambers are baited and re-inspected.

All complaints are investigated and free treatment carried out at domestic premises. Advice is given at business premises and a charge is made on time and material basis if treatment is requested.

Occasional complaints of Wasps, Hornets and Ants etc. are investigated and advice given on treatment.

For the last three months of the year the operator has been off work due to sickness but few complaints have been received regarding rats or mice which indicates that the treatments which had been carried out by the operator were keeping the rodent population down to a minimum.

It may be necessary to consider possible future action for 1969 if the operator is unable to return to work.

